

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Sweeney, Patrick J.  
Title: VERTEBRAL PROSTHESIS  
Appl. No.: 10/686,998  
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Art Unit: 3738  
Conf. No.: 7428

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated December 31, 2007, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: